

## CLAIM(S):

1. A cassette for use in delivering a continuous length of filament, comprising:
  - a spool rotatably mounted in a chamber of a substantially closed housing;
  - a length of filament wound around the spool and having a free strand at an end thereof;
  - a path from the chamber to an exit orifice, in which the filament strand is positioned;
  - means for advancing the filament strand through the exit orifice; and
  - means for preventing tangling of filament in the cassette.
2. The cassette of claim 1, wherein the means for preventing tangling comprises a means for locking the spool during transport of the cassette and a means for guiding the filament strand as it is withdrawn from the cassette.
3. The cassette of claim 1, wherein the means for preventing tangling comprises a means for locking the spool during transport of the cassette.
4. The cassette of claim 3, wherein the means for locking comprises a pin that restrains a flange of the spool.
5. The cassette of claim 3, wherein the means for locking comprises a pin inserted into aligned recesses of the cassette and the spool.
6. The cassette of claim 5, wherein the pin restrains a flange of the spool.

7. The cassette of claim 5 and further comprising an adhesive substrate positioned over the pin.
8. The cassette of claim 3, wherein the means for locking comprises a pin that restrains a hub of the spool.
9. The cassette of claim 8, wherein the pin has a serrated edge around a circumference thereof, which engages a serrated surface of the spool hub.
10. The cassette of claim 1, wherein the means for preventing tangling comprises a means for guiding the filament strand as it is withdrawn from the cassette.
11. The cassette of claim 10, wherein the means for guiding the filament strand comprises a floating tubular guide member through which the filament strand passes as it travels from the spool to the exit orifice.
12. A cassette for use in delivering a continuous length of filament, comprising:
  - a spool rotatably mounted in a chamber of a substantially closed housing;
  - a length of filament wound around the spool and having a free strand at an end thereof;
  - a path from the chamber to an exit orifice, in which the filament strand is positioned;
  - means for advancing the filament strand through the exit orifice; and
  - a locking pin inserted through aligned recesses of the cassette and the spool.

13. The filament cassette of claim 12, and further comprising an adhesive substrate positioned over the pin.

14. The filament cassette of claim 12, wherein the pin is inserted into a flange of the spool.

15. The filament cassette of claim 12, wherein the pin engages a hub of the spool.

16. The filament cassette of claim 15, and further comprising a cassette hub having a plurality of bosses which project into recesses in the pin, to thereby prohibit rotational movement of the pin engaged in the spool hub.

17. A cassette for use in delivering a continuous length of filament, comprising:

a spool rotatably mounted in a chamber of a substantially closed housing;

a length of filament wound around the spool and having a free strand at an end thereof;

a path from the chamber to an exit orifice, in which the filament strand is positioned;

means for advancing the filament strand through the exit orifice; and

a floating, tubular guide member through which the filament strand passes as it travels from the spool to the exit orifice.

18. The cassette of claim 17, wherein the tubular guide member comprises an elongated body coupled to a substantially-rigid bobber, wherein the filament strand enters the guide member through the bobber.

19. A method of assembling the cassette of claim 5, comprising the steps of:
- loading the spool of filament into the chamber,  
positioning the filament strand in the path;  
holding the filament in tension; and  
inserting the pin.
20. The method of claim 19, and further comprising:  
threading the filament strand through a tubular guide member prior  
to the step of positioning the filament strand in the path.